



## **Florida House of Representatives**

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### **HOUSE CONCLUDES DAY 60 OF SESSION, CONTINUES WORK ON BUDGET, PRIORITIZES JOB CREATION AND RECHARGING FLORIDA'S ECONOMY**

*~House Extends Negotiations with Senate on Budget, Seminole Compact ~*

**TALLAHASSEE, FL** - The Florida House successfully concluded Day 60 of the 2009 Regular Session with a focus on preserving core missions, expanding benefits for unemployed Floridians, closing tax loopholes, encouraging education excellence and preparing Florida for the economic recovery by creating the conditions for job growth and economic stability.

"House Republicans have stayed focused on our responsibility to Florida's families and businesses. Our focus has been on creating jobs and finding ways to jump start Florida's economy," stated House Majority Leader Adam Hasner (R-Delray Beach).

"While it is going to take a few extra days, getting it done right is more important. It's a responsible approach that takes a long-term view. The budget and the Seminole Indian Compact remain under negotiation and the House will continue to work through next week with our colleagues in the Senate to reach an agreement on these issues," concluded Hasner.

The bills passed by the House so far during this Session include:

- Creating jobs and increased economic development by expediting the permitting process and construction of projects identified by a municipality or county as a target industry business. (HB 73 by Representative Schenck)
- Continuing to reform Florida's workers' compensation system prevents job losses and helps job creation and economic recovery. (HB 903 by Representative Flores)
- Providing voters the opportunity to limit the property tax increase on certain non-homestead property. (HJR 7057 by Representative Domino)
- Closing a corporate tax loophole created by the Florida Supreme Court's *Crescent* decision thus generating millions of dollars in lost revenue for Florida. (HB 283 by Representative Lopez-Cantera)

(more)

- Accepting nearly \$2 billion in federal stimulus money to extend the length of time that unemployed workers receive assistance and increasing the weekly benefit. (HB 7147 by Representative Murzin)
- Providing voters the opportunity to give first-time homestead property owners an additional homestead exemption. (HJR 97 by Representative Domino)
- Providing voters the opportunity to give a credit against future ad valorem taxes for members of the United States military or military reserves, the United States Coast Guard or its reserves or the Florida National Guard. (HJR 833 by Representative Horner)
- Preventing drastic rate increases for Citizens' property insurance customers and working to keep Citizens' from going bankrupt thus protecting all Florida taxpayers from potentially devastating policy assessments or tax increases. (HB 1495 by Representative Nelson)
- Ending "double-dipping" by closing a loophole that has allowed a growing number of elected officials and state employees to collect retirement benefits and a state salary at the same time. (HB 479 by Representative Schenck)
- Joining 38 other states in attempting to track the prescribing of pain killers and other controlled substances to prevent doctor shopping and drug abuse. (HB 897 by Representatives Llorente, Skidmore and Kelly).
- Empowering all Florida Universities to charge a tuition differential that will be used to improve undergraduate education. (HB 403 by Representative Weatherford)
- Providing voters the opportunity to end "welfare for politicians." (HJR 81 by Representative Hays)
- Providing Floridians with the freedom to choose the type of residential policy and premium that is best for them without unnecessary intervention from regulators. (HB 1171 by Representative Proctor)
- Stopping a tactic known as "Libel Tourism" which results from defamation lawsuits filed against authors critical of individuals with known ties to terrorist organizations like al Qaeda and Hamas. (HB 949 by Representative Van Zant)
- Increasing penalties on those who cause harm or death as a result of human smuggling activities. (HB 123 by Representative Snyder)
- Recharging our economy by streamlining the growth management process while maintaining safeguards for environmental protection (HB 7127 by Representative Hukill)

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